U.S. NAZIS RULED LEGAL !!

Virginia Official Rules U. S. Nazi Party Is Legal

Special to the Herald Tribune

ARLINGTON, Va., Mar. 30.—A Virginia Corporation Commissioner reaffirmed today the right of the minuscule American Nazi party to a state charter so long as it complies with Virginia's laws.

"It is not a crime to call yourself a Nazi; criminality stems from acts and not from words," Commissioner Ralph T. Catterall wrote in defense of the commission's issuance of a charter to the group on March 14. Approval of a charter, his letter said, is automatic "to all who file proper papers and pay statutory fees."

Mr. Catterall's letter was received today by Joseph F. Barr, national executive director of the Jewish War Veterans. Mr. Barr wrote Virginia's Gov. J. Lindsay Almond jr. on Tuesday to suggest that the Governor "review the charter in terms of the history, conduct and avowed purpose of the 'party.'" The Governor turned the letter over to the Corporation Commission, which operates independently of the executive.

The swastika-adorned charter application filed by George Lincoln Rockwell, leader of the bush-league movement which has its "national headquarters" here, said the purpose of the group was to gain political power "by all legal means." It said the party sought to "edu-

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cate" the public about "suppressed facts concerning the Communist conspiracy to destroy us and the white race."

Issuance of that charter, Mr. Barr contended in his letter to the Governor, gave Mr. Rockwell grounds to claim his movement is a "legal" party with "lawful" status in Virginia, even as it inculcates the "foreign, subversive ideology" of Nazism.

Reached at his headquarters, Mr. Rockwell seemed pleased, but not surprised by Mr. Catterall's letter. He said he needed the charter to incorporate his movement, "because our funds are growing so large that I didn't want to handle them as an individual." He said he'd rather not say how large the funds might be.

The would-be Fuehrer, whose anti-Jewish outbursts and brown-shirted appearances have stirred near-riots and official action in New York, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia, said he knew Virginia would issue him a charter "because I always obey the law."

"The movement" was based in Virginia, Mr. Rockwell said, because the state "is the last stronghold of American freedom in the world; it does things according to law and won't bow to this sort of blackmail."

Because he is so pleased by the old Dominion's political climate, he said he plans to try to get on the ballot to run for Governor this year. He said he hopes to get enough signatures on his nominating petition by campaigning in agricultural southern Virginia on pledges to "see to it that there is no integration."

Asked how his party is doing for man power, Mr. Rockwell reported without dismay that its current membership is ninety-six in Virginia and "about 500" throughout the nation—plus "several million who are with us."

He took indignant exception to a line in Mr. Barr's letter accusing his party of seeking to "gas citizens of Jewish and other faiths whom it considers 'traitors.'"

"We don't want to gas Jews," Mr. Rockwell said. "The head of our Los Angeles branch is a Jew. We just want to gas people who are convicted by American juries of committing treason."

Asked how these people are to be found, he said "hundreds" would be unearthed if the F. B. I. were to make public dossiers which he claims were suppressed by Presidents Truman and Eisenhower.

"We'll keep at it," Mr. Rockwell said, "and the more the Jews scream, the more interest there will be."